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SMEAR BUND

Recently Attorney General John Mitchell announced a nationwide drive against organized crime. In the meantime, elements of the dreaded Mafia have moved into Washington right under the nose of the Organized Crime Division, Justice Department. The Mob has established a beachhead preparatory to muscling in on newspaper syndication on a global basis; the German magazine *Stern* has already signed on the dotted line. The syndicate is called "World Wide Features, Inc." and is owned by the notorious Pope brothers of New York. Anthony, Fortune and Generoso Pope are the sons of the big-time Mafia boss, Generoso, Sr., who was many years leader of the Italian contingent of Tammany Hall in its heyday of corrupt political power.

Generoso Pope, an immigrant from Italy, started out with a push cart picking up junk. When he rose to affluence in the Mafia and Tammany Hall he went into the building supply business and through bribery and Mafia methods he gained a virtual monopoly of selling building supplies to the City of New York. Every year he would invoice the city for hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of building supplies that were never delivered. Thanks to "pavingblock" Ed Flynn, Tammany leader, the bills were paid.

The elder Pope amassed a fortune of over \$150 million before he died a few years ago. His sons maintain close tie-ins with the Mafia rackets. Anthony and Fortune Pope operate the Colonial Sand & Stone Co., and continue selling building supplies to the city. Colonial Sand owns cement factories, stone crushing mills, 200 tugboats and barges, and 750 ready-mix concrete trucks on the streets of New York.

The Popes own *El Progresso*, the leading Italian language newspaper in the U.S. The baby brother, Generoso Pope, Jr., owns a pornographic sheet called the *National Enquirer* that has a circulation of 1,300,000 copies per issue. Utilizing Mafia methods, Pope's goons have forced many news dealers not to sell competing sheets. The *National Enquirer* makes enormous profits on its filth-proving that smut pays.

Back in the early 1930's, smear columnist Drew Pearson eulogized Mafia boss, Generoso Pope, as the first "prominent Italian American" to turn against Mussolini. Pope promptly gave Pearson a \$150-a-week contract to write one column a week for his *El Progresso*. At that time it was more than any other newspaper paid for one column. A few years ago, Pearson, Fortune Pope and Leonard Marks went into a partnership and acquired the Bell-McClure Syndicate and the North American Newspaper Alliance. Pope put up most of the cash. It has proved to be a most lucrative deal for Pearson since the profits are split

evenly three ways. LBJ appointed Leonard Marks Director of the U.S. Information Agency, where he was in a position to award juicy printing contracts running into many millions a year.

Generoso Pope has installed in charge of his Washington operations, a Mafia-type bureau chief named Joe Trento. The Pope-owned news syndicate has joined the smear brigade to smear conservative organizations, Members of Congress and high public officials who want to crack down on Communists, rioters and assorted left-wingers.

Pope's henchmen, including those planted with Fawcett Publications, are working closely with Drew Pearson and the Anti-Defamation League. The ADL has assigned its top spy, Sanford ("Sandy") Griffith, to work in the smear conspiracy with the Pope goons and Pearson. With the aid of informants like the notorious John P. Acord, head of the American-Southern Africa Council, they are all set to do a vicious smear job on a grand scale.

This alliance between the Kosher Nostra and the Cosa Nostra is not unusual. There has been a longstanding truce between the Jewish and Italian gambling syndicates. And the Popes help Jewish charities and Zionist funds through the family-owned Generoso Pope Foundation, Inc. This family tax-dodging foundation is suspected of being a secret conduit for CIA funds. During the Korean War, Generoso Pope, Jr. worked for the CIA and he has many contacts at high government level.

One objective of the Pope-Pearson-ADL-Communist Party smear bund is to block the Senate confirmation of Otto Otepka to the Subversive Activities Control Board and to block passage of a pending Senate bill to strengthen the Internal Security Act and enlarge the scope of the Subversive Activities Control unit. Using gangster tactics, nothing is too vicious for them to do to achieve their goal.

Incidentally, the night Frankie Costello was shot in New York a few years ago, he had just had dinner with Generoso Pope, Jr., who had let Costello out of his car at a hotel. When Costello walked in the door he was shot in the neck. Pope was questioned by the police but not arrested. Costello at the time was the topmost Mafia chieftian and slot-machine czar along with extensive interests in casinos in Las Vegas. Pearson has stopped his Mafia exposes since he has secured a lucrative financial tie-in with the Popes.

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